



The Honorable Dante B. Fascell, Chairman  
Legal and Monetary Affairs Subcommittee  
Committee on Government Operations  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in response to your letter dated 19 January 1968 requesting information on the role of the Central Intelligence Agency in the effort against organized crime.

The National Security Act of 1947, as amended, (50 U.S.C. 401) charges the Agency with the duty of correlation, evaluation and dissemination of intelligence relating to the national security within the Government. It should be noted that the Act specifically provides " . . . That the Agency shall have no police, subpoena, law-enforcement powers, or internal-security functions . . . ".

Thus, collection of information relating to organized crime is not within the jurisdiction of CIA, but the Agency does occasionally receive information relating to criminal activities as a by-product. Generally, this information pertains to narcotics, counterfeiting, and smuggling and is made available to the appropriate elements of the Treasury Department. Whenever information on criminal activities of interest to the FBI is received, it is immediately forwarded. In addition, the indices of CIA are available to appropriate law enforcement agencies on request.

CRC, 8/26/2003

CIA has long been interested in electronic document and information storage and retrieval and has had several specialized systems in operation for some years. In light of this experience, Agency officials in November 1967 briefed Mr. Fred M. Vinson, Jr., Assistant Attorney General, and six officers of the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice, on machine records. Emphasis was on the possible adaptation of the CIA system as a means of storing, collating, and retrieving information on organized crime. Mr. Vinson expressed appreciation for the "detailed and clear analysis and advice" which "helped us a good deal along the way to solving some of our most acute information needs." We have also consulted with law enforcement agencies at the local level and furnished advice on the use of machine records.

CIA conducts a program of research and development to explore new technical means for furthering its mission. By means of periodic meetings of representatives of interested agencies, the results of this effort are available to appropriate Federal law enforcement agencies which may adapt such developments to their own needs when feasible.

I have circulated the President's memorandum with regard to organized crime to appropriate Agency officials to insure that they will be alert to any potential for Agency contribution to this program. Although the CIA role is necessarily limited, we shall continue to assist in this effort to the fullest extent permitted by law.

Sincerely,

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STATINTL

Richard Helms  
Director

14 Feb 68  
Date

15 Feb 68  
Date

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